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TOW LAW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
TOW LAW,
Co. Durham.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949

AREA 477 acres.

POPULATION 3,270

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT THE END OF 1949 - 961

RATEABLE VALUE - £9,407

PRODUCT OF 1D. RATE - £34. 16. 2d.

OFFICIALS Medical Officer of Health

Dr. A. Charlton, Grove Lodge, Tow Law.
(Part time - temporary basis).

Sanitary Inspector - Vacant

Tuberculosis Medical Officer; Venereal Diseases Medical Officer; School Medical Officer; Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer; Obstetric Consultants; Vetinary Surgeon; Public Analyst; Health Visitor; Maternity Nurse; etc., are under Durham County Council.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Employment has remained good during the year. Coal Mining remains active, although it is a pity that this employment is chiefly available at collieries outside the Urban Area. Female labour is absorbed at Clothing factories in Crook, some 4 miles away, and West Auckland, some 10 miles distant, with the disadvantages associated with transport.

A small factory for female workers would be beneficial to the town.

Further employment is afforded on a small scale by four small engineering projects, as well as by the usual general activities of a small town.

Generally speaking, a need exists for lighter industries to absorb labour, which at present is tending to be dispersed at a distance from the Urban area.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	24	26
	Illegitimate	1	1
		25	27

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 - Estimated Resident Population

15.9

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 - England and Wales

16.7

Still Births

	Male	Female
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-
	-	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population - 0.30

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population of England & Wales

0.39

DEATHS

Deaths in Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-
	2	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births Resident population

58

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 England & Wales

32

DEATH RATE

	Male	Female	Total
All causes	28	22	50

Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population = 15.3

Death Rate per 1,000 Population England & Wales = 11.7

Phthisis Death Rate 0.92
Total Tuberculosis Death Rate.....1.22
Lung Diseases Death Rate.....0.61
Deaths occuring outside
District included..... 13

Deaths at Subjoined Ages - All ages 50

Under 1 week	1
Under 1 month.....	1
Under 3 months.....	-
3 - 6 months	1
6 - 9 months	-
9 - 12 months	-
UNDER 1 YEAR	3
1 year and under 2	1
2 years and under 5	1
5 years and under 15 yrs.....	2
15 yrs and under 25 yrs	-
25 yrs and under 45 yrs	5
45 yrs and under 65 yrs	10
65 yrs and under 75 yrs	14
75 and upwards	14

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Deaths from Subjoined Causes

Cancer Malignant Disease	4
Rheumatic Fever	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	1
Bronchitis	1
Bronchial Pneumonia	1
Congenital Malformation	1
Congenital Debility	1
Convulsions	1
Organic Heart Disease	8
Violent or Accidental Death excluding Suicide	3
Arterio-Sclerosis	7
Senility	13
Cerebral haemorrhage	1
Other defined diseases	4
Uncertified deaths under 1	2
" " over 5	5
Inquest Cases	3
Transfers - included	13

Deaths from Tuberculosis

	Male	Female
Respiratory		
Age 35 - 44	1	1
65 and upwards	-	1
Total	1	2
Non-Respiratory		
Age 5 - 9 years	1	-

Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs)

NIL

DEATHS FROM CANCER SHOWING ORGANS AFFECTED, SEX AND AGE PERIODS

Deaths at Subjoined Ages

45 yrs to 65 yrs	2
65 yrs to 75 yrs	1
75 and upwards	1

Digestive Organs and Peritoneum	1 Male	1 Female
Urinary Organs	1 Female	
Other unspecified organs	1 Female	

TOTALS 1 Male and 3 Females

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

Scarlet Fever	1

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ATTENDED CORRECTIONS IN EACH SANITARY DISTRICT

Scarlet Fever	1
Pneumonia	4
Measles	30
Whooping Cough	24

TUBERCULOSIS - PRIMARY NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES

Respiratory ..... 3 males - Females Nil
Non-Respiratory .....1 Male - 2 Females

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations of Sputum, Throat swabs and Blood for the Diagnosis of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever, are carried out at the Government Public Health Laboratories, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Facilities also exist for any other laboratory investigation.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Satisfactory.

AMBULANCE CONTROL

Bishop Auckland - Telephone 810

NURSING IN THE HOME

General nursing is carried out by a Nurse resident in Tow Law.

Maternity Nursing is catered for by a resident midwife.

TREATMENT CENTRES

A Child Welfare & Maternity Centre operates in Tow Law at fortnightly intervals.

A Venereal Disease Clinic at Durham County Hospital and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Bp. Auckland, under the auspices of the Durham County Council, provide adequate facilities for those diseases.

GENERAL HOSPITAL FACILITIES

General Hospital facilities exist at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Durham and Bp. Auckland, Certain eye cases are treated at the Sunderland Eye Infirmary.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Durham County Council controls Record System, and issues a pamphlet to parents regarding vaccination against Smallpox when a child attains the age of 3 months.

To draw attention to need for immunisation against Diphtheria, leaflets are sent by post at 8 months and 12 months, and to encourage reinforcing dosage at the age of 4 years 9 months.

TOW LAW U.D.C. VACCINATION - AGE AS AT 31/12/49 i.e. BORN IN YEAR

Under 1 -(1949)	5
1 - 4 - (1945-48)	5
5 - 14 (1935-44)	1
15 or over before 1935	1
TOTAL	12

REVACCINATED

15 or over before 1935 5

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1949

Child Population MID 1949

Under 5 years	285
5 years to 15 years.....	490

Live Births Registered

1948.....	64
1949.....	52

Number and estimated percentage of mid-1949 child population immunised up to 31/12/49

Under 5 years.....	87
Percentage - 31.	
5 years to 15 years.....	214
Percentage - 44	

Full Course of Primary Immunisation

Under 5 years	23
5 years to 15 years.....	1
TOTAL	24

Reinforcing injections.....	7

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Arranged by Durham County Council with the co-operation of Health Visitors.

A scale of charges has been formulated and the amount payable is assessed according to the income of the family concerned.

Assistance is provided for aged persons, Maternity Cases, and where domestic distress makes outside assistance necessary.

The duties of Domestic Helps relates to the purely domestic work of the household, they do not undertake any nursing and provide their own food.

ATTENDANCES OF MOTHERS AND INFANTS AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

Number on books from 1/1/49

Expectant Mothers	65
Children Under 1 year	34
1 - 3 years.....	52
3 - 5 years.....	17

Attendances

Expectant Mothers	268
Children Under 1 year.....	303
1 - 3 years	194
3 - 5 years	22

Average per Session

Expectant Mothers	12
Children Under 1 year.....	13
1- 3 years	9
3 - 5 years	1

Consultations

Expectant Mothers	259
Children	
Under 1 year	288
1 - 3 years.....	184
3 - 5 years.....	22

Average per Session

Expectant Mothers	12
Children	
Under 1 year	13
1 - 3 years	9
3 - 5 years	1

WATER SUPPLY

Complaints of inadequate water supply proved to be justified and the Durham County Water Board was notified.

Samples of Water for Analysis - 2

All houses in the area are provided with a piped supply.

No action has been necessary in relation to smoke abatement.

No Slaughtering is done in the district.

The Bakehouses are clean and satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

No alterations of note.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

No changes of note.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ORDER

To March 31st, 1949 - Sewers & manholes treated - 15
Business premises treated - 4
Council Refuse tips treated - 3

MILK

One dairy closed down because of unsuitable premises (J. Cummings).

Two Dealers' Licences were issued.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during year - 2
" " " " occupied during year- 2

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total Number in District

Water Closets.....	235
Ash Closets.....	610
Ashpit Privies	Nil

Ash Privies converted into water closets - 4
Ash Closets converted into water closets - Nil

WATER, FOOD & DRUGS

Seizure of Unwholesome Food 1

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Houses disinfected..... 4

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Inspections etc., Structural Defects

Properties Inspected	Informal Written Notices	Formal Notices by order of L.A.	No. of nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling houses & Schools -			
Foul Conditions.....	1	-	1
Structural defects...	106	-	52
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Dairies & Milkshops.....	-	-	-
Cowsheds	11	-	-
Ashpits & Privies	46	1	34
Defective Yard Paving	4	-	-
Housing Drainage..			
Defective Traps	-	-	-
No. of disconnections from sewers...	-	-	-
Other faults.....	4	-	4
Pigsties	-	-	-
Other Nuisances....			
Slag Dust	1	1	-
TOTALS.....	173	2	91

I am,
Your most obedient Servant,

A. CHARLTON,
M.B., B.S.

11th August, 1951